

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/620,474

Examiner

Ayal I Sharon

Applicant(s)

FUJIWARA, MAKOTO

Art Unit

2123

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed 10/8/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 7-27.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 06 November 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

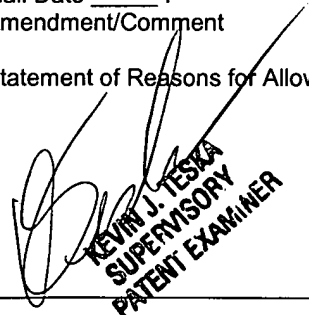
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


KEVIN J. TESKA
SUPERVISORY
PATENT EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Introduction

1. Claims 7-27 of U.S. Application 09/620,474, originally filed on 07/20/00 are presented for examination. The application has a foreign priority date of 07/30/1999.
2. In Applicants' recent Amendment after RCE, filed 10/8/2004, Claims 1-6 have been previously cancelled in response to a restriction, and claims 7, 9, 12, and 14-20 are currently amended. Claims 7, 9, 12, 14-17, and 20 are the current independent claims.

Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.
4. In the previous Office Action, dated 6/16/2004, Claims 14-16 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants have amended the claims and are now in an allowable format.
5. In addition, in the previous Office Action, dated 6/16/2004, Examiner reiterated the comments in the interview summary (dated 3/17/2004, conducted with Examiner Fred Ferris), that the teachings in Figures 6 and 7 represent subject matter not taught in the cited prior art, and are not claimed in the present claims.

Moreover, Examiner also reminded the Applicants that the interview summary mentioned that the scope of the then-current claims applied also to networks.

6. In the most recent amendment, filed on 10/8/2004, the Applicants have amended the remaining independent claims 7, 9, 12, 17 and 20 in a manner that addresses these issues. The Applicants persuasively argue (see amendment, pp.11-12.

Emphasis is from the original text):

Nonetheless, in order to further clarify the distinction between the present invention and cited prior art whereby large scale networks are not a subject of the present invention, the independent claims have been amended *as suggested in the Interview Summary* to embody a method of designing an interface of a **semiconductor integrated circuit** which executes **plural** applications.

As shown in Fig.7 of Applicant's drawings and described in the corresponding description, the present invention can analyze a performance of an interface through operation simulation arranged on a processing time base. That is, the designing method of the present invention can operate **actual** simulation such that applications are operated along a time sequence such that applications are operated along a time sequence and the performance is evaluated time-by-time (see Fig.7). It should be noted that each of the applications relates to a specific function as recited in independent claims 7, 9, 12, 17 and 20, with exemplary functions described, for example, in Fig.6 and page 17, line 22 – page 18, line 9 of Applicant's specification.

Turning to the cited prior art, Mahmud_1 is merely a theoretical paper. The disclosed "theoretical" simulation only uses probability and a predetermined period as a variation value. After the predetermined period has passed, the disclosed process simply calculates the bandwidth. Accordingly, Mahmud_1 fails to disclose or suggest an operation simulation such that applications which relate to specific functions are operated sequentially along a time sequence.

Furthermore, Mahmud_1 is completely silent as to plural applications where each of the plural applications relates to a specific function (again, Mahmud_1 only uses probabilities and a whole predetermined period). In this regard, Amadori also is completely silent as to time sequential

operation simulation and therefore does not obviate the deficiencies of Mahmud_1.

7. Examiner has found Applicants arguments regarding the amended independent claims 7, 9, 12, 17 and 20 as being persuasive. These claims, and their dependent claims, are allowable over the cited prior art.
8. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Correspondence Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ayal I. Sharon whose telephone number is (571) 272-3714. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, and the first Friday of a biweek, 8:30 am – 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin Teska can be reached at (571) 272-3716.

Any response to this office action should be faxed to (703) 872-9306, or mailed to:

USPTO
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

or hand carried to:

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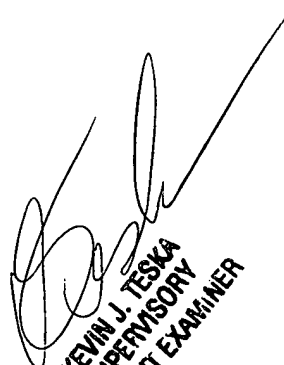
USPTO
Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Tech Center 2100 Receptionist, whose telephone number is (571) 272-2100.

Ayal I. Sharon

Art Unit 2123

March 18, 2005



KEVIN J. TESKA
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PATENT EXAMINER